

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZATION INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 5, 1924.

Vol. II, No. 10.

LIVESTOCK DEALERS MUST CEASE DISCRIMINATING

On April 19, 1924, the Secretary of Agriculture, under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, issued an order, as a result of a hearing held at Kansas City, Mo., requiring fifty-six old line commission firms and thirty traders doing business in the Kansas City Stock Yards, to cease discriminating against the Producers' Commission Association, a cooperative organization, in the purchase of cattle at this stockyard.

-----0-----

NEW PERIODICAL FOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The latest arrival among the periodicals issued by farmers' business organizations is "The N. C. Producer," published by the Producers' Commission Association, Kansas City, Mo. The first number is dated April, 1924, has six pages, 8 x 11, and is devoted entirely to livestock marketing. It is printed on the orange colored paper which is one of the trade marks of the associations affiliated with the National Live Stock Producers' Association.

-----0-----

RECORD FOR PACKING TOBACCO ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTICUT

Thirty thousand cases of Broadleaf and Havana Seed tobacco were packed during the month of March by the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Association, Hartford, Conn., thereby breaking all records. This was an average of 1,000 cases a day for every working day and the manager and the warehouse department are proud of the record and of the excellent way in which the tobacco was handled. It is stated that "The association system of handling tobacco has brought the process to a uniform standard never before believed possible."

The association has 3,700 members controlling 23,000 acres of land which produces largely "binders and wrappers."

VIRGINIA FARMERS TO BE FURNISHED PRODUCTION CREDIT

At a mass meeting at Darville, Va., on March 14, over \$67,000 was subscribed in thirty minutes toward the capital stock of the Virginia Agricultural Credit Corporation. It is proposed to set up an organization which will have sufficient capital to furnish, with the aid of the Intermediate Credit Bank, production credit for a large part of the state. The par value of the stock of the corporation is \$100 per share.

-----O-----

WHEAT POOL CAMPAIGNS IN TWO CANADIAN PROVINCES

A report from the United States Consul General at Winnipeg, Can., dated March 1, 1924, states that efforts are being made in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to secure a sufficient number of contract signatures to make possible the operation of a wheat pool in each of the two provinces, to cooperate with the Alberta pool. In five Saskatchewan districts contracts have been secured covering 100,000 acres each, and seven districts have over 75,000 acres each. Manitoba has a much smaller producing area than either Saskatchewan or Alberta. The merits of wheat marketing pools have been discussed pro and con, but "the condition of agriculture is not satisfactory and all would await the result of the experiment."

The report further states that the Canadian Council of Agriculture has determined to send a delegation to Ottawa to present to the Dominion Parliament the true condition of the farmers.

-----O-----

KENTISH FARMERS MARKET WOOL COOPERATIVELY

An experiment in cooperative wool marketing in England is described in the Kentish Estates Journal for April. The article states that a society known as the Kent Wool Growers, Limited, was organized with 75 members in 1920, for the purpose of selling wool cooperatively, and has now grown to 400 members. Valuable assistance was rendered by the Agricultural Organization Society and the simple model rules of that society were adopted. Each member is required to hold at least one £1 share of stock and may hold as many as 200 shares. Necessary funds are provided by a bank on the security of the wool itself, backed by a personal guarantee to a certain amount by some of the leading members. Wool is received in roomy storage houses at Ashford, the center of the wool producing area of the county, and advances somewhat less than the market price are made to members on delivery. Prices secured show a marked increase over those secured by individual selling. In 1920 about 25,000 fleeces were handled; in 1923 the number was nearly 100,000, and larger storage houses are being built. The 611 shares of stock held by the 75 original members have grown to 1,454 shares.

REVISED LIST OF HOUSE ORGANS AVAILABLE

One of the greatest problems of a farmers' business enterprise is that of keeping the members informed regarding the activities and policies of the associations. Many organizations are remedying the difficulty by publishing association periodicals or house organs for circulation among their members. In order to assist organization officials who may wish to adopt such a policy, a revised list of such publications has been prepared giving information regarding the size, form, and contents of each paper.

The revised list contains 79 entries. These publications vary from the illustrated magazine on calendered paper to the single mimeographed sheet. The contents also vary and each paper develops its own individuality, depending largely upon the aims and ideals of the editor.

Some of these periodicals have been issued for a number of years and deal largely with production problems. Many of the articles published are prepared by men with technical training and embody the latest available information. Some of the more recently launched publications are of a more or less personal news letter type, containing detailed information regarding the activities of the association and the policies being carried out by the executive officers.

Grouped according to commodities the dairy products associations lead the list with 20 publications. The list is as follows:

<u>Commodity Associations</u>	<u>No. of Periodicals</u>
Dairy Products	20
Fruit	12
Cotton	9
Grain	7
Poultry Products.	6
Potatoes	5
Tobacco	4
Livestock	3
Nuts.	3
Beans	2
Peanuts	2
Rice.	1
Wool.	1
Miscellaneous	4
Total.	79

Fifty-three of the papers are published monthly; 19, semimonthly; 6, weekly; and 1, bimonthly. Twenty-five have four pages each; 16 have eight pages; 13, sixteen pages; 5, twelve pages; 4, thirty-six; 3, twenty; 3, twenty-four; 3, one; 2, forty-four; 2, twenty-eight; and 2, two pages. Seventeen began publication in 1923; 16 in 1922; 11 in 1921; 10 in 1920; 7 in 1919; 4 in 1917; 3 in 1916; 2 in 1914; 1 in 1913 and 1 in 1911. Seven have appeared in 1924. Fifty-seven carry advertising and 22 do not.

Copies of the revised list may be secured by addressing the Division of Agricultural Cooperation, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

MELON GROWERS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE A NEW PRODUCT

The plan to utilize some of the small watermelons by converting the rind into preserves, is being considered by the Soweiga Melon Growers' Association, Adel, Ga. In order to arouse interest in the subject a prize contest has been announced by a local club of business men and prizes amounting to \$100 have been offered to the mothers, wives and daughters of members of the association for the best preserves made with cane syrup. It is believed that a good commercial product can be prepared which will save many of the watermelons now going to waste, and also supply a good market for the cane syrup.

-----O-----

COLORED PICTURES OF FRUIT PREPARED TO AID GRADERS

As an aid to the accurate determination of grades of fruit, the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association, San Jose, Calif., has prepared two sheets of pictures of prunes and two of apricots, showing in exact color reproduction the differences between "Sunsweet," "Growers," and "off quality" grades existing in the natural color of fruit delivered at the packing houses. The Sunsweet Standard states:

A very careful selection was made of specimens of fruit reproduced in these sheets. The making of the color plates from which the sheets were printed covered a period of six months and every effort was made to show every detail and difference in the color and appearance of the skin and the color and texture of the meat in the cut-open specimens of the fruit. As a result the finished sheets give an almost exact reproduction of the various grades of the fruit received by the association from all the districts from which the association receives prunes and dried apricots.

A set of these colored sheets has been placed in the hands of the superintendent of every one of the association's packing houses where they may be examined by the growers, or sets may be purchased from the association by growers.

In order to care for the tremendous crop of apricots expected this year in the Hollister district, a large addition is being built to the plant at that point. The addition is of concrete and provides storage space for 1,500 tons of dried fruit. It will contain grading machinery capable of handling a large crop.

A new plant for cracking apricot pits has been completed recently at Santa Paula. The plant has a capacity of about 25 tons of pits per 10-hour day and is expected to save the association about \$5,000 a year over the old methods. The processes of cracking, cleaning, sorting and sacking for shipment, are carried on automatically, resulting in great labor saving. The shells are sold for the manufacture of charcoal, while many of the kernels are used in the manufacture of oil.

CITRUS EXCHANGE PRESIDENT HONORED BY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was recently conferred by the University of California upon C. C. Teague, President of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, in recognition of his services for the improvement of conditions connected with growing, financing, and marketing California crops. Mr. Teague is considered a leading figure in the agricultural activities of California, and has given much attention to the perfecting of the cooperative method of marketing farm produce.

Appreciation of the honor conferred upon their president was expressed by the directors of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, as the representatives of 11,000 members, in the form of a resolution commending the action of the University and expressing their satisfaction in the growing recognition of the importance of agricultural pursuits in the economic life of the country.

----O----

THE PEOPLE'S YEAR BOOK FULL OF INFORMATION

Persons interested in the cooperative movement in general will find much valuable information in the 1924 issue of the People's Year Book and Annual of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, "a volume of specific information prepared by the cooperative press agency." Reports, general information, and statistics are given for consumers' cooperative societies in more than twenty countries, as well as international information. Numerous phases of the subject are discussed.

The figures for the Cooperative Wholesale Society show that in 1922 the number of members belonging to the C. W. S. through shareholding societies was 3,491,335, and the net sales for the year were £65,904,812. Results of the operation of the numerous cooperative factories of the society are shown for 1922 and 1923. Among the commodities manufactured for members are the following: Biscuits, preserves, soap, flour and provender, tobacco, lard, rope, hosiery, corsets, shirts, underwear, woollen goods, clothing, boots and shoes, iron, furniture, brushes, tinplate, paint and varnish. Several factories are required to carry on the manufacture of a number of lines of goods. Clothing leads the list with 16 factories; boot and shoe factories number 10; flour mills, 3; woollen mills, 7; while some other lines have three, four and five factories each.

Large holdings of land have been acquired for productive purposes, the estates in Great Britain now amounting to 33,552 acres. The tea plantations in Ceylon comprise 5,699 acres, and the estates in India, also for the production of tea, contain 28,617 acres. The society owns its own ships and transports its own raw and finished products.

OHIO COOPERATIVE REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL REFUNDS

Refunds amounting to \$2,273 were made on the business handled in 1923 by the Western Reserve Farmers' Cooperative Association, Unionville, Ohio. Among the various pools for which refunds were made were the following: Crate pool, \$234.12; grape basket, \$290.03; nicotine sulphate, \$18.43; blue vitrol, \$6.08; arsenate of lead, \$2.19; strawberries, 3 pools, \$127.08; grapes, 10 pools, \$1,359.16; gooseberries, \$0.44.

Total sales for the year amounted to \$85,140; of which the growers received in payments and refunds, \$67,929, or 80%. General expenses were but \$3,987, or 4.7% of gross sales.

This association with 117 members handled during the shipping season 80 cars of grapes and 10 cars of strawberries.

-----0-----

COOPERATION PLANNED FOR NEW YORK DAIRY INTERESTS

Steps toward the outlining of a sound economic program for better marketing of dairy products, were taken at a meeting of dairy-men of Montgomery County, New York, held at Fonda, April 5. The meeting was attended by over 300 representative dairymen, most of whom were from Montgomery County. These dairymen represented twelve distinct groups, including independent plants, independent producers, the Eastern States Milk Producers, the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, and others. The meeting, which was said to be "one of the strongest and most harmonious gatherings ever assembled in the interest of unified action," was the outgrowth of work done by the county agent to bring about a spirit of harmony and to dispel all discord and confusion over marketing problems.

After several addresses the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That a meeting of the milk producers in the different counties of the state be held for the purpose of having a general constructive discussion of the milk marketing problem in order to secure cooperation between the different dairy organizations in solving their common problems.

And be it further Resolved: That the Montgomery County Farm Bureau be called upon to inform all other farm bureaus of the state, soliciting them to call meetings to create milk conference boards to comprise two delegates from each respective plant or group of milk producers.

John I. McClumpha, of Amsterdam, was elected secretary of the new county conference board which grew out of the meeting, and John Ingersoll, of Fultonville, was elected president of the board.

LARGE COOPERATIVE DAIRY IN FRANCE

A report of the Surgeres Cooperative Dairy, submitted by the American Consul at La Rochelle, France, shows receipts of milk for 1923 to the amount of 4,329,607 litres, or 1,143,886 gallons. Of this quantity 94,538 gallons was sold as fluid milk in the neighboring cities. The remainder was manufactured into butter and casein, making 162,691 kilogrammes (357,920 lbs.) of butter, and 95,512 kilogrammes (210,126 lbs.) of casein.

This cooperative dairy has 649 members who furnish the milk from 2,717 cows, the average yield per cow being 1,968 litres (220 gallons) per year. Each member is required to insure his cows as soon as they are one year old. If an animal becomes sick the farmer receives 75% of the cost of treatment, or, in case the animal dies, he receives 75% of the value of the cow.

-----0-----

TWENTY-SIX NEW YORK CHEESE FACTORIES FEDERATE

Twenty-six cooperative cheese-producers' associations have been formed in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and federated into the St. Lawrence County Cheese Producers' Cooperative Association, Inc., with headquarters at Gouverneur, N. Y. Eighteen of the local associations are new, having been organized recently around local cheese factories with the aid of the State Bureau of Markets and the county agent. It is expected that the federation will control about six million pounds of cheese this year, or about one-eleventh of the product of the state, St. Lawrence being one of New York's heaviest cheese-producing counties.

Eight of the associations, all in one township, were formed about four years ago, as was also a federation. Sales have been handled through a cheese-sales board made up of one representative from each of the local factories. The board met once a week when prices were determined on bid-and-asked quotations. This method of arriving at prices proved quite satisfactory and it is with the thought of carrying marketing activities a step farther that the larger federation has been formed. The plans being developed include provisions for merchandising the product.

Special efforts are being made to insure the delivery of better quality of milk, also to standardize the cheese made in each factory, "so that next year they can begin to think about putting association marks upon their product." This program is so extensive that it is hoped that no more local associations will want to join the federation this year.

GEORGIA YAMS TO BE SOLD COOPERATIVELY

With the slogan "Let's Organize, Advertise and Merchandise Georgia Yams" the sweet potato growers of Georgia are organizing a cooperative marketing association with headquarters at Valdosta. In the interests of the organization campaign the first number of a monthly publication, "The Georgia Sweet Potato Grower," has been issued.

0

COOPERATIVE BULLETIN POPULAR

The interest in cooperation shows no signs of waning, if the demand for U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 1144, entitled "Cooperative Marketing," may be considered an index. This bulletin was first issued in September, 1920. During 1921, 65,575 copies were distributed; 34,425 copies were distributed in 1922; 55,510 in 1923; and 23,490 up to April 5 of 1924. Four editions of the bulletin have been issued, totalling 200,000 copies.

SIXTH DISTRIBUTION MADE TO STAPLE COTTON GROWERS

Distributions to the members of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., for their 1923 cotton, have amounted to \$13,875,082 up to the present time. The sixth distribution, of \$378,568, or 3% of the base value, was made on April 10. On April 1 a "statement by bales" was sent to each member, giving an accurate record of every bale of cotton delivered by each member to the association up to March 24. A final statement will be sent when the season is completed.

Receipts and sales by the Staple Cotton Association on April 1 of 1922, 1923, and 1924, are shown in the following table, also the amounts distributed to members on that date:

April 1	:	Bales	:	Bales	:	Bales	:	Amount Distributed
	:	Received	:	Sold	:	Unsold	:	(Cents per pound)
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1922	:	156,264:	:	101,625	:	54,639	:	17.47
1923	:	167,418:	:	114,711	:	52,707	:	21.39
1924	:	107,338:	:	64,662	:	42,676	:	25.96

The amount of money distributed for each of the three years to April 1, was as follows:

1922	\$13,648,649
1923	18,136,062
1924	13,875,072

INCREASED BUSINESS REPORTED BY POULTRY ASSOCIATION

Since the Atlantic Coast Poultry Producers' Association, formerly the New Jersey Poultry Producers' Association, established a sales service in New York City, June 1, 1922, the number of members in the association has more than doubled. The quantity of eggs handled and the volume of sales have also doubled. As a result of this growth the association is establishing itself in larger quarters at 8 to 12 Jay Street, in the heart of the butter, cheese and egg district. The new home of the association has been christened the "Poultrymen's Building" and it is expected that it will become the headquarters for all poultrymen in the eastern states when visiting New York. Rooms are being equipped for the use of visiting poultrymen who are invited to have their mail delivered in care of the association and to use the facilities provided by the association for the transaction of business.

The ground floor of the new quarters will be used as a sales room and will give the association four times as much space as formerly for the selling end of the business, and will make possible the efficient handling of the increased supplies of eggs and poultry which are promised by the various farmers' organizations arranging with the association for sales service in New York City. The basement of the building will be used for refrigeration and storage of supplies, including groceries purchased for the association's retail stores. On the second floor of the building are located the offices, and on the third floor the packing department, where the eggs which require re-packing are handled. Suggestions regarding the arrangement of the packing department were obtained from men with many years of experience in handling eggs and poultry.

At its inception this association was purely a New Jersey enterprise. However, during its two years of activity it has greatly expanded and today it has members in 13 states. Recently it became the selling agency for the Virginia Poultry Producers' Cooperative Association, Inc., and in this new capacity contemplates opening branch sales rooms and offices in Baltimore and Washington. As soon as the poultry producers of Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Delaware become interested in the collective selling of eggs and poultry, it is proposed to establish a branch in Philadelphia.

The gross receipts of the association for 1923 were \$756,355. Of this amount \$727,892 came from the sale of eggs; \$11,746 from the sale of poultry; and \$7,155 from the sale of supplies to members. Producers were paid \$617,715 for eggs and poultry, 83.5% of the gross sales of these products. Transportation charges, storage and packing-house charges, and selling and office expenses, amounted to but 18.5%. Receipts for the first three months of 1924 amounted to more than \$326,000, as compared with \$189,266 for the same period last year.

NEW COOPERATIVE LAW IN NEW JERSEY

The State of New Jersey has recently enacted a statute providing for the incorporation and regulation of cooperative associations. The statute provides for the formation of stock and nonstock associations to engage in any activity in connection with the marketing or selling of agricultural products or in regard to the production, manufacturing, harvesting, processing, or utilization of them. The statute provides that the certificate of incorporation shall set forth certain facts. In addition, the statute states that the certificate of incorporation may contain "any other provision not inconsistent with law which the association may see fit to adopt governing the regulation and conduct of its affairs." It will be apparent from the language quoted that it gives those desirous of forming an association under the statute in question great latitude as to the matters that can be included in the certificate of incorporation, or, as it is called in many states, "articles of incorporation." In this connection attention is called to the fact that all persons dealing with a corporation are charged with notice of all provisions included in the charter (certificate of incorporation) which are authorized by statute, although they may have no actual notice thereof.

The statute provides that associations formed thereunder may contract and deal with nonmembers provided that the association shall not charge a nonmember for services performed by it more than it charges a member for similar service.

Every association formed under this statute is required to have its affairs completely audited at the close of each fiscal year, and the association is required to file a copy of the audit with the Secretary of Agriculture of New Jersey. The statute provides that two or more associations formed thereunder may have agents in common and may unite in employing the same means for carrying on and conducting their respective businesses.

The use of the word "cooperative" by any person or corporation as a part of its corporate or business name is forbidden except with reference to corporations formed under this statute.

L. S. Hulbert

FARMER-OWNED STOCKYARDS NOW OPERATING AT LEXINGTON

Facilities for handling 7,000 animals have been provided by the Farmers' Union Cooperative Stockyards Co., Lexington, Ky., organized in 1923. The yards, 225 x 800 feet in size, represent an investment of \$16,000; the sheds, \$16,000; and the loading shutes, \$3,000. There are 100 pens. Auction sales are held every Tuesday, farmers within a radius of 40 miles shipping in, driving in, or hauling in their livestock which is sorted and sold according to first and second grade. The number of animals sold weekly ranges from 350 to 800 hogs, 75 to 200 calves, 50 to 100 cattle, and 40 to 75 horses and mules. It is expected that 2,000 to 3,500 lambs will be handled this spring. The management of the enterprise recently stated that "cooperative selling has taught the farmers how to grade their livestock and otherwise prepare it for market, and has encouraged purebred breeding because it has resulted in prices from \$5 to \$15 higher for certain kinds and types of animals."

---0---

QUARTER OF A MILLION RETURNED TO SHIPPERS

Measured by the number of animals handled the increase in volume of business of the Farmers' Union Livestock Commission, Omaha, Nebr., has been 38.6% for the last two years. The total number of cars handled has increased from 7,653 for 1921, to 10,179 for 1923. During the two years the average operating expense per car has been reduced from \$6.13 to \$4.75, a reduction of 22.5%.

Figures indicating the number of cars of livestock handled and the number of animals of each kind, are given in the table below. It will be noted that the greater part of the increase in business has been in connection with the marketing of hogs.

Year :	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep		Total	
	Cars	Heads	Cars	Head	Cars	Head	Cars	Head
1921 :	2,079	55,840	5,442	374,138	132	20,409	7,653	450,387
1922 :	2,031	54,897	5,511	366,659	92	15,182	7,634	436,738
1923 :	2,022	53,535	7,861	544,278	296	26,520	10,179	624,333

The figures given below which tell the story in dollar and cents are taken from a statement recently issued by the association.

Year:	Cars	Commissions:	Expenses:	Av. Operat-:	Savings	
	:Handled :	Collected:		ing Expense:	Amount	Per Cent
	:	:	:	Per Car :		:
1921:	7,653	\$137,252	\$46,707	\$6.13	\$90,545	65.9
1922:	7,634	128,482	43,104	5.63	85,378	67.3
1923:	10,179	159,790	48,396	4.75	111,394	71.2

LIVESTOCK SELLING AGENCY COMPLETES SECOND YEAR

Livestock valued at \$14,854,000 was handled by the Producers' Livestock Commission Association, National Stockyards, East St. Louis, Ill., during 1923, the second year of the company's existence. This was an increase of 50% in value over the first year when the valuation was \$9,855,000. Earnings, or savings, of the association were \$85,000 the past year as compared with \$50,000 in 1922, an increase of 69%. Besides this a reduction of approximately 20% in commissions was made for the last three months of the year.

Of all the stock received on the East St. Louis market the Producers handled 11,101 cars, or 12.5%, as compared with 6,649 cars in 1922, an increase of 67%.

Commissions were collected to the amount of \$209,000, which was but 1.4% of the value of the livestock handled. The average refund per car for the year was \$7.53 as compared with \$6.48 in 1922, an increase of 16.2%. Refunds to the amount of \$41,000 have been sent to Illinois shippers; \$35,000 to Missouri, and \$5,000 to Iowa.

The more important groups of figures connected with the business transactions of the association's two years of activity are given in the following table:

	: 1922	: 1923	: Increase
			: (Per cent)
Number of cars handled	: 6,649	: 11,101	: 66.9
Number of animals handled	: 431,470	: 849,169	: 76.3
Value	: \$9,855,871	: \$14,854,335	: 50.7
Commissions collected	: 134,692	: 209,225	: 55.3
Operating expenses	: 91,293	: 123,583	: 35.7
Earnings or savings	: 50,249	: 85,237	: 69.6
Average commission per car	: 20.27	: 18.84	: 7.05
Average expenses per car	: 13.79	: 11.31	: 17.9
Average savings per car	: 6.48	: 7.53	: 16.2

Eighty per cent of the 849,169 animals handled by the selling agency during 1923 were hogs; 3%, cattle; 8%, sheep; and 4%, calves. In all 598 cars were handled by the stocker and feeder department.

The average selling price per head for all livestock was \$16.79, of which \$15.71 was immediately returned to the shipper, giving him on the average 93% of the selling price at the terminal market. The average marketing cost per head, including refund, was \$1.08. Of this amount transportation charges accounted for 60.9¢; feed at terminal markets, 7.9¢; and yardage, 14¢.

Consignments were received from twelve states: Illinois, 5,461 cars; Missouri, 4,598 cars; Iowa, 665; Texas, 95; Arkansas, 80; Tennessee, 70; Mississippi, 61; Oklahoma, 27; Kentucky, 13; Louisiana, 8; Indiana, 2; and Kansas, 1.

A comparison of receipts for the first two months of the three years shows that in January and February of 1922 the association handled 583 cars; in 1923, 1,517 cars; and in 1924, 2,230 cars.

IOWA LEADS IN NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS HANDLING LIVESTOCK

Of the 1,598 farmers' associations handling livestock which have reported to the United States Government of Agriculture, 94% are in the North Central States. Nearly 60% are in the seven states west of the Mississippi River and over 34% in the five states east of that river. Fewer than 100 reports were received from the other 36 states, as will be noted by the following table:

<u>Geographic Division</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
United States	:	1,598	:	100.0
West North Central	:	953	:	59.6
East North Central	:	549	:	34.4
East South Central	:	35	:	2.1
Mountain	:	27	:	1.7
South Atlantic	:	17	:	1.1
West South Central	:	7	:	.4
Pacific	:	6	:	.4
Middle Atlantic	:	4	:	.2
New England	:	2	:	.1

In the light of reports so far received Iowa is the leading state in regard to number of associations. Minnesota is second in importance, Illinois stands third, and Wisconsin fourth. As regards average amount of business per association in 1922, Ohio stands first, Iowa second, and Missouri third, as will be noted by the table below:

<u>State</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Number of</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Average</u>
	:	<u>Associations</u>	:	<u>Reporting</u>	:	<u>Amount of</u>
	:	<u>Reporting</u>	:	<u>Amount of</u>	:	<u>Business</u>
	:		:	<u>Business, 1922</u>	:	<u>Per Year</u>
1. Iowa	:	334	:	98	:	\$152,357
2. Minnesota	:	300	:	117	:	87,598
3. Illinois	:	154	:	34	:	110,470
4. Wisconsin	:	144	:	43	:	112,906
5. Missouri	:	107	:	13	:	137,523
6. Indiana	:	95	:	12	:	85,833
7. South Dakota	:	93	:	25	:	50,040
8. Michigan	:	82	:	23	:	86,869
9. Ohio	:	74	:	16	:	221,125

The average amount of business for the 413 associations reporting amount of business for 1922, was \$153,568.

Slightly over 40% of the associations reporting are incorporated; 17.8% have capital stock; 10.5% pay dividends on capital stock; 89.7% are composed only of producers of livestock; and 53.7% pay patronage dividends.

The average age of the 774 associations which reported the date of organization is 5.5 years. The number of associations formed in each year since 1910 is shown below, with the per cent of total:

Year	:	Number	:	Per Cent
Prior to 1910	:	13	:	1.7
1910	:	8	:	1.0
1911	:	13	:	1.7
1912	:	14	:	1.8
1913	:	12	:	1.6
1914	:	30	:	3.9
1915	:	48	:	6.2
1916	:	49	:	6.3
1917	:	46	:	5.9
1918	:	61	:	7.9
1919	:	111	:	14.3
1920	:	109	:	14.1
1921	:	142	:	18.4
1922	:	90	:	11.6
1923	:	28	:	3.6
Total	:	774	:	100.00

Statements relative to the number of members were received from 603 associations. Over 27% of these associations had from 51 to 100 members each; over 19% had from 101 to 150; and over 14% had from 151 to 200. Over 77% of the associations had memberships which did not exceed 200 each, as will be noted by the following table:

Group	:	Number of	:	Per Cent	:	Cumulative
	:	Associations	:	of Total	:	Per Cent
25 or fewer	:	21	:	3.5	:	3.5
50 or fewer	:	98	:	16.3	:	16.3
51 to 100	:	164	:	27.2	:	43.5
101 to 150	:	116	:	19.2	:	62.7
151 to 200	:	88	:	14.6	:	77.3
201 to 250	:	50	:	8.3	:	85.6
251 to 300	:	35	:	5.3	:	91.4
301 to 350	:	12	:	2.0	:	93.4
351 to 400	:	14	:	2.3	:	95.7
401 to 450	:	3	:	.5	:	96.2
451 to 500	:	6	:	1.0	:	97.2
Over 500	:	17	:	2.8	:	100.00
Total	:	603	:	100.0	:	

The 408 associations reporting amount of business in 1922 are grouped in the following table according to amount of business. Over 15% of the associations reported business for the year of from \$21,000 to \$40,000; over 63% reported annual business of \$100,000 or less.

Group	: Number of	: Per Cent	: Cumulative
	: Associations	: of Total	: Per Cent
\$ 20,000 or less	: 55	: 13.5	: 13.5
21,000 to \$ 40,000	: 65	: 15.9	: 29.4
41,000 to 60,000	: 55	: 13.5	: 42.9
61,000 to 80,000	: 44	: 10.8	: 53.7
81,000 to 100,000	: 39	: 9.6	: 63.3
101,000 to 120,000	: 33	: 8.1	: 71.4
121,000 to 140,000	: 25	: 6.1	: 77.5
141,000 to 160,000	: 21	: 5.1	: 82.6
161,000 to 180,000	: 10	: 2.4	: 85.0
181,000 to 200,000	: 5	: 1.2	: 86.2
	: :	: :	: :
201,000 to 300,000	: 37	: 9.1	: 95.3
301,000 to 400,000	: 7	: 1.7	: 97.0
401,000 to 500,000	: 6	: 1.5	: 98.5
501,000 to 1,000,000	: 6	: 1.5	: 100.0
Total	: 408	: 100.0	: :

Four hundred thirty-three associations reported collective buying. The number and per cent of the associations buying the different lines of goods most frequently purchased by farmers' co-operative organizations, was as follows:

Commodities purchased	: Number of	: Per Cent
	: Associations	: of 433*
	: Purchasing	: :
Feeds	: 287	: 66.2
Containers	: 134	: 30.9
Fuel	: 133	: 30.7
Fertilizers	: 104	: 24.0
Seeds	: 59	: 13.6
Fencing	: 34	: 7.8
Building Material	: 30	: 6.9
General Merchandise	: 22	: 5.0
Implements and Machinery	: 19	: 4.3
Hardware	: 18	: 4.1

* Total number reporting cooperative buying.

LARGE ORDER FOR FEEDER LAMBS FILLED BY CHICAGO PRODUCERS

An order for 5,000 feeder lambs was filled recently by the Chicago Producers' Commission Association, Chicago, Ill. This was the largest single order filled by the producers to date and required 32 single-deck cars for transportation. All were range lambs with good fleeces, and averaged 62 pounds in weight.. They were shipped to the farms of a large seed firm in Michigan where they will be finished for the late spring market.

-----0-----

MINNESOTA LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION COMPLETES SIXTEENTH YEAR

The sixteenth annual report of the Litchfield Livestock Shipping Association, Litchfield, Minn., shows that 236 cars of livestock were shipped during 1923. Included in the shipments were 13,553 hogs; 2,403 calves; 1,538 cattle; and 291 sheep. Total receipts from the stock sold were \$292,510, of which amount \$272,966, or 93%, was paid to members shipping livestock. Expenses were \$16,620, or 5.7% of the amount received at the central market. The largest items among the expenditures were: Freight, \$3,932; selling commission, \$3,179; yardage at central market, \$2,313; local manager (expenses and commission) \$3,119.

During the 16 years that this association has been operating it has shipped 2,487 cars of livestock which have been sold for \$4,295,396.

-----0-----

SELLING AGENCY FOR NORTHWESTERN APPLES BEING FORMED

At a meeting held at Yakima, Wash., April 12, steps were taken for the formation of the Northwestern Fruit Growers' Commission as a selling agency for the associations handling apples. Five associations, handling about 8,000 carloads a year, through their representatives, agreed to assist in the formation of the commission, as did also a sixth association now being formed. An organization committee was elected and a tentative form of organization was drawn up. It is proposed to incorporate as a capital stock, nonprofit company under the laws of the State of Washington. The stock will be issued in trust to the directors representing the various associations which join the new organization. It is expected that 10,000 carloads of apples will be pledged to the commission.

The organizations which are taking an active part in launching the new commission are: the Yakima Fruit Growers' Association, Yakima; the Wenatchee District Cooperative Association, Wenatchee; the Hood River Apple Growers' Association, Hood River, Ore.; the Spokane Valley Growers' Union, Opportunity, Wash.; the Inland Empire Cooperative Association, Walla Walla; and the Selah Cooperative Growers, Selah, Wash., now being formed.